



GOVERNOR OF MISSOURI

JEFFERSON CITY

65102

JEREMIAH W. (JAY) NIXON
GOVERNOR

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May 21, 2013

Dear Medicaid Coalition Member:

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for your unwavering commitment to the most important issue facing our state today: strengthening and reforming Medicaid. Bringing the dollars Missourians send to Washington back to expand and improve Medicaid in Missouri will strengthen our economy, create thousands of jobs, and provide basic health coverage to hundreds of thousands of hardworking Missourians.

Over the last six months, I have stood with you in every corner of the state to make the case for seizing this unique opportunity. Together, we built a coalition of more than 200 organizations whose breadth and depth rivaled any in recent memory: medical professionals and law enforcement officers, business leaders and faith groups, Republicans and Democrats all united in support of this cause.

At a time when some wanted to push this issue aside, you brought it powerfully to the fore. You lit up the phone lines, packed hearing rooms, wrote letters and attended town hall meetings. And last month, you gathered by the thousands in the halls of our State Capitol to make your voices heard.

That is why, though the General Assembly may have ended the 2013 legislative session without authorizing Medicaid expansion, this temporary setback should not diminish the huge strides we have taken, or weaken the momentum that continues to build. Our coalition remains united, dedicated and determined to move our state forward.

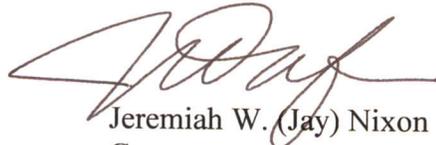
You know what's at stake: health coverage for 300,000 Missourians, \$2 billion dollars a year coming back to Missouri, and 24,000 new jobs in the first year alone. Bringing these dollars back to our state will put downward pressure on premiums and protect businesses from higher penalties under the Affordable Care Act. It will provide access to treatment for 50,000 Missourians with mental health challenges and ease burdens on local law enforcement agencies. It is a once in a lifetime opportunity to improve care, reduce unnecessary emergency room visits, and promote personal responsibility in our health system. That is why more than 60 state and local business groups – from Warrensburg to West Plains, Bolivar to Blue Springs – have joined this strong and growing coalition. Without question, strengthening Medicaid is the smart thing to do.

But put aside the numbers, and the simple fact remains that making it easier for hundreds of thousands of working Missourians to get basic health care is also the right thing to do. No father who works day and night to provide for his family should have to put off the treatment that could save his life. No mother should have to choose between going back to work and keeping her health insurance. No child should have to watch a parent struggle with an untreated mental illness. The needs of these Missourians do not end with the legislative session. Your elected representatives may return to their districts, but their responsibility to do the right thing for their constituents endures.

With these facts and a growing coalition on our side, momentum will continue to build for strengthening Medicaid in Missouri. Please join me in the coming days, weeks, and months and continue to educate your neighbors, colleagues and elected representatives. Let them know strengthening Medicaid is the smart business decision that will strengthen our economy. Let them know that you want your tax dollars spent in your community, not in some other state. And let them know that making it easier for hundreds of thousands of working Missourians to get basic health care is simply the right thing to do.

It is my honor and privilege to share in this endeavor with you. Thank you again for everything you have done, and will continue to do, to move our state forward.

Sincerely,



Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon
Governor

Enc.

c: Missouri General Assembly

Committed to Strengthening Medicaid in Missouri

Business Organizations

- Albany Chamber of Commerce
- Associated Industries of Missouri
- Blue Springs Chamber of Commerce
- Bolivar Chamber of Commerce
- Branson Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce
- California Area Chamber of Commerce
- Camdenton Chamber of Commerce
- Cape Girardeau Chamber – Economic Development
- Carrollton Area Chamber of Commerce
- Chillicothe Chamber of Commerce
- Chillicothe Development Corporation
- Clayton Chamber of Commerce
- Civic Council of Greater Kansas City
- Clinton Chamber of Commerce
- Columbia Chamber of Commerce
- Columbia REDI
- Eldon Chamber of Commerce
- Grandview Chamber of Commerce
- Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce
- Greater Northern County Chamber of Commerce
- Greater St. Charles County Chamber of Commerce
- Greater West Plains Area Chamber of Commerce
- Hannibal Area Chamber of Commerce
- Harrisonville Chamber of Commerce
- Hermann Area Chamber of Commerce
- Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Greater Kansas City
- Independence Chamber of Commerce
- Kennett Chamber of Commerce
- Kirksville Area Chamber of Commerce
- Kirksville REDI
- Lake of the Ozarks West Chamber of Commerce
- Lee’s Summit Chamber of Commerce
- Madison County Chamber of Commerce
- Marshall Chamber of Commerce
- Marshall-Saline Development Corporation
- Maryland Heights Chamber of Commerce
- Mid America Regional Council (Kansas City)
- Missouri State Chamber of Commerce
- Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce
- Nevada-Vernon County Chamber of Commerce
- New Madrid Chamber of Commerce
- North County Incorporated, Regional Development Association
- Northeast Missouri Economic Development Council
- Northland Regional Chamber of Commerce
- Northwest Chamber of Commerce (St. Louis County)
- Pacific Area Chamber of Commerce
- Platte County Economic Development Council
- Poplar Bluff Chamber of Commerce
- Raymore Chamber of Commerce
- Ripley County Chamber of Commerce
- Ripley County Economic Development Council
- Sedalia Area Chamber of Commerce
- Southeast Missouri Regional Planning Commission
- South Kansas City Chamber of Commerce
- Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce

- St. Louis Business Area Health Coalition
- St. Louis Regional Chamber of Commerce
- Ste. Genevieve Chamber of Commerce
- St. Joseph Metro Chamber
- Troy Area Chamber of Commerce
- Washington Chamber of Commerce
- Warrensburg Chamber of Commerce

Coalition for Healthy Economic Growth

- Missouri Primary Care Association
- Missouri Hospital Association
- Missouri Academy of Family Physicians
- Missouri Association of Nurse Anesthetists
- Missouri Association of Rural Health Clinics
- Missouri Nurses Association
- Missouri Optometric Association
- Missouri Dental Association
- Missouri Association of Health Plans
- Missouri Health Care Association
- Missouri Pharmacy Association
- Missouri Coalition of Community Mental Health Centers
- Missouri Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
- Missouri Section of the American Congress of OB/GYNs
- Missouri Dental Hygienists’ Association
- Ambulance District Association of Missouri
- Missouri Emergency Medical Services Association
- Missouri Ambulance Association
- Missouri Association of County Development Disability Services
- Missouri Centers for Independent Living
- Missouri Association of Free Clinics
- Missouri Alliance for Home Care
- Missouri State Medical Association
- March of Dimes
- American Cancer Society
- Missouri Academy of Pediatric Dentistry
- Missouri Psychiatric Association
- Leukemia and Lymphoma Society
- Missouri Developmental Disabilities Coalition
- The Congress of Disability Policy
- American Diabetes Association
- Missouri Chapter of the American College Physicians
- American Lung Association
- Multiple Sclerosis Society
- American Heart Association

Civic Groups and Professional Organizations

- Greene County Medical Society
- Kiwanis Club of Doniphan
- Missouri Association of Community Action
- Missouri Recovery Network
- Missouri Community Action Directors Association
- St. Louis Regional Health Commission
- Missouri Catholic Conference

- Missouri Public Health Association
- Missouri Family Health Council
- Physicians for the National Health Program
- Ovarian Cancer National Alliance
- Blue Ribbon Advocacy Alliance
- The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
- National Patient Advocate Foundation
- American Association of People with Disabilities
- National Alliance of Mental Illness (NAMI)
- Fight Colorectal Cancer
- Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy Association
- Colon Cancer Alliance
- Susan G. Komen for the Cure
- International Myeloma Foundation
- Cancer Support Community
- LiveSTRONG
- Lung Cancer Society

- St. Louis Regional Asthma Consortium
- St. Louis Regional Health Commission
- University of Missouri Kansas City School of Law
- Webster University
- Women's Voices

Missouri Health Advocacy Alliance

- Central Reform Congregation of St. Louis
- Communities Creating Opportunity (CCO)
- Deaconess Parish Nurse Ministries, LLC
- Disability Coalition on Health Care Reform
- Gateway Chapter of the Older Women's League (OWL)
- Jewish Community Relations Council of St. Louis
- Missouri Association for Social Welfare
- Missouri Citizens Education Fund (Missouri Progressive Vote Coalition)
- Paraquad
- Planned Parenthood
- SEIU Missouri/Kansas State Council
- St. Louis Area Jobs with Justice
- Southwest Center for Independent Living
- American Cancer Society
- Catholic Charities of St. Joseph-Kansas City
- Catholic Charities of St. Louis
- Center for Immigrant Healthcare Justice
- Citizens for Missouri's Children
- Citizens Alliance for Independence (CAI)
- Faith Des Peres Presbyterian Church
- Grass Roots Organizing (GRO)
- Lutheran Family and Children's Services of Missouri
- Missouri Citizen's Education Fund
- Missouri Family Health Council
- Missouri Immigrant and Refugee Advocates (MIRA)
- National Women's Political Caucus – Metro St. Louis
- Nurses for Newborns
- Partnership for Children
- Presbytery of Giddings Lovejoy
- Swope Health Care of Kansas City
- University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Dentistry
- AARP
- Alliance for the Status of Missouri Women
- Jackson County Community Mental Health Fund

Missouri Medicaid Expansion Coalition

- AFSCME
- American Cancer Society
- American Lung Association
- Bootheel Area Independent Services
- Catholic Charities
- Catholic Charities St. Louis
- Catholic Campus Ministry - Springfield
- Central Reform Congregation
- CHIPS Health and Wellness Center
- Communities Creating Opportunities
- Door Ways
- Grass Roots Organizing
- Jobs with Justice
- Justice Today
- Legal Aid
- Lupus Foundation
- Missouri Association of Social Workers
- Maternal Child and Family Health Coalition
- Missouri AIDS Taskforce
- Medicaid Coalition
- Mental Health America of Eastern MO
- Metropolitan Congregations United
- Missouri Alliance for Retired Americans
- Missouri Faith Voices
- Missouri Foundation for Health
- Missouri Healthcare for All
- Missouri Hospice
- Missouri Progressive Action Group
- Missouri ProVote
- Missouri Rural Crisis Center
- Missouri Association for Community Action, Incorporated
- Missouri Budget Project
- Missouri Health Advocacy Alliance
- Multiple Sclerosis Society
- National Alliance on Mental Illness
- Paraquad
- Planned Parenthood
- Progress Missouri
- Saint Louis Effort for AIDS
- SEIU Healthcare Missouri
- Show-Me Accessible Health Care, Inc.
- Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet
- St. Louis University School of Law

Statewide Law Enforcement Groups

- The Executive Board of the Missouri Sheriff's Association
- Missouri Police Chiefs Association
- Missouri Fraternal Order of Police